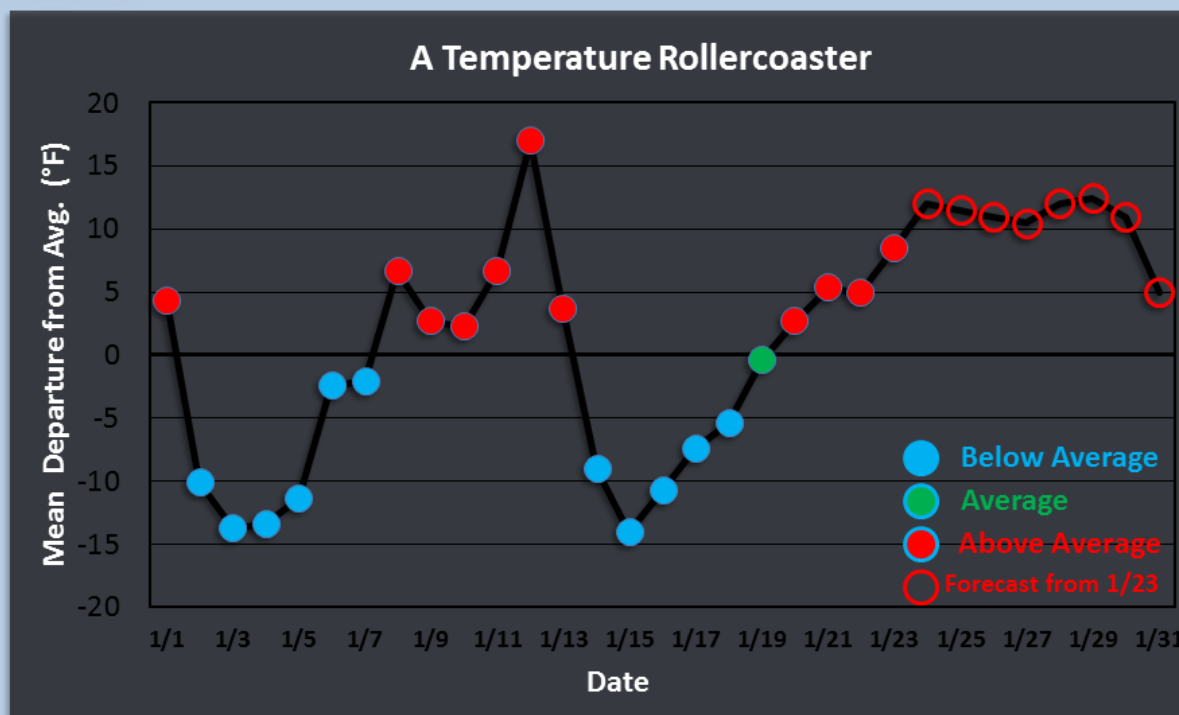




# January in the Rio Grande Valley



Above: Average temperatures across the Rio Grande Valley are a little above 60°F. Afternoon averages are around 70°F, and early morning averages are around 50°F.

## The Best Laid Plans?

### January 2013's Impressively Warm Finish May Keep Above "Normal" Streak Going

**By the middle of the month**, temperatures across the Rio Grande Valley were roughly 3 to 4°F below average. Though medium to long range forecasts indicated a gradual warming trend, the tendency was for a return to near or just above the long term average, with highs between 70 and 75°F, and lows around 50°F. The jet stream was forecast to be fairly progressive from west to east, with winter's chill headed for the eastern half of the country while the Valley would see enough of a "touch" from the remnant cold front(s) to keep temperatures from [getting too warm too fast](#) (scroll to the upper left corner of page 4 for the graphic).

Arctic air (Frigid! in the graphic) surged from the Upper Midwest into the Northeast states on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Valley had a brief wind shift to the northeast, which held temperatures just a few degrees above average. After 22 days of the month, departure from average across the Valley was a little over 2 inches below, making it difficult to see enough warming to bring the final monthly tally above the 30 year average, which is around 60.5°F.

And then...

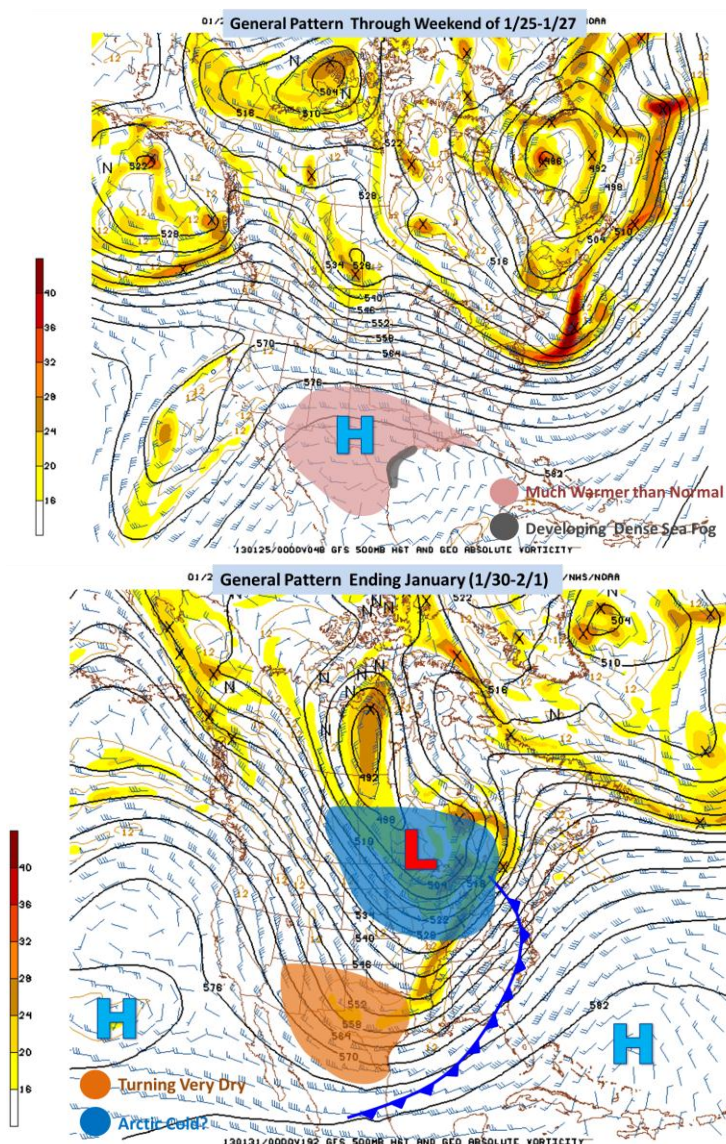
The pattern changed. Rather than a deep trough whose western edge would be locked down across the Great Plains for a few days, the ridge forecast to be across the western U.S. (previously mentioned graphic) decided to park over Texas and northern Mexico to close out the last full week of the month. The ridge is forecast to slowly move east through the early part of the final week of January, with another upper level trough slowly edging out of the Rockies into the Great Plains on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. This will sweep a relatively dry "cold" front

across the Valley, but “cool” on the final day of the month may still mean temperatures a few degrees above the long term average, which is around 62°F as January turns to February. Until then, a full week of temperatures around 10°F above average may be just enough to turn January overall from below average to nearly a full degree (1°F) above average! Should this be the case, the streak of months above average will be unbroken.

Just when it seemed otherwise. Stay tuned.

### Weather-wise...

It's back to the spring clothing. No jackets or sweaters required at most times, except at the beach where still cool near shore Gulf waters will keep the air temperatures in the 60s most of the time. Otherwise, afternoon temperatures will average around 80°F or so through the period, and early morning temperatures will average between 62 and 66°F. For boaters and beachgoers, watch for developing/thickening fog as the warmer, more humid air overrides the cooler water. The sea fog should be most prevalent during the weekend; if boating or fishing, be sure to have navigational equipment fully functioning, as well as an operational horn to signal others to your location.



**Top:** Forecast “jet stream” pattern for the last week of January. Notice the broad ridge (blue H) across the southern Great Plains, indicative of warm temperatures. **Bottom:** Forecast “jet stream” pattern for the end of January. The ridge relocates to the Bahamas, while trough stretches from the Upper Midwest through the southern Great Plains. Frigid arctic air will dive into the Great Lakes and Northeast U.S. while very dry air surges across the southern Great Plains behind the cold front. Click the **bottom** image for a loop.